AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 15 and 18-19; please cancel claims 16-17, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A splice system for linear connection of fishing lines, the system comprising:

a female connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, ~~the connector being symmetric about the axis,~~ the first end connected to a first fishing line section and the second end having a first opening therein, the connector having an interior feature with a radial extent, wherein the female connector is removably connected to the first fishing line section, the female connector having an axial bore in the first end having a diameter greater than a diameter of an end of the first fishing line section and less than a diameter of a knot formed at the end of the first fishing line; and

a male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, ~~the connector being symmetric about the axis,~~ the second end connected to a second fishing line section and the first end having a projection thereon configured for coaxial insertion into the first opening of the female connector, the projection having a radial extent greater than the radial extent of the interior feature of the female connector;

wherein at least one of the connectors is resilient so that the projection compresses or the interior feature expands to allow passage of the projection axially past the interior feature.

2. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 1 wherein the female connector is removably connected to the first fishing line section.

3. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The~~ A splice system ~~of claim 2 further~~ for linear connection of fishing lines, the system comprising:

a female connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the first end connected to a first fishing line section and the second end having a first opening therein, the connector having an interior feature with a radial extent, wherein the female connector is removably connected to the first fishing line section, the female connector having an axial bore in the first end of the female connector having a diameter greater than a diameter of an end of the first fishing line section and less than a diameter of a knot formed at the end of the first fishing line; and

a male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the second end connected to a second fishing line section and the first end having a projection thereon configured for coaxial insertion into the first opening of the female connector, the projection having a radial extent greater than the radial extent of the interior feature of the female connector;

wherein at least one of the connectors is resilient so that the projection compresses or the interior feature expands to allow passage of the projection axially past the interior feature.

4. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 1 wherein the projection has a first end at the first end of the male connector and an opposite second end and wherein the projection tapers from a smallest diameter at the first end of the projection to a larger diameter at the second end of the projection.

5. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 4 further comprising a neck on the male connector adjacent the second end of the projection, a surface between the neck and the second end of the projection forming a radial shoulder.

6. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 1 wherein the interior feature is a raised interior annulus.

7. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 6 further comprising a tapered surface disposed on the raised interior annulus, the tapered surface facing the second end of the female connector.

8. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 6 further comprising a radially extending flat surface disposed on the raised interior annulus, the flat surface facing the first end of the female connector.

9. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 1 further comprising a radially extending stop member disposed on the male connector which faces the first end of the female connector when the male connector is connected to the female connector.

10. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 9 wherein the male connector tapers from a larger diameter adjacent the stop member to a smaller diameter at the second end of the male connector.

11. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 1 wherein the male connector is permanently connected to the second fishing line.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The splice system of claim 1 wherein the male connector is removably connected to the second fishing line section.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The splice system of claim 12 further comprising:

an axial bore in the second end of the male connector having a diameter greater than a diameter of an end of the second fishing line section and less than a diameter of a knot formed at the end of the second fishing line.

14. **(Original)** The splice system of claim 1 further comprising a float disposed on one of the fishing line sections.

15. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The~~ A splice system ~~of claim 1 further~~ for linear connection of fishing lines, the system comprising:

a female connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the first end connected to a first fishing line section and the second end having a first opening therein, the connector having an interior feature with a radial extent, and further comprising a plurality of weep orifices disposed on the female connector; and

a male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the second end connected to a second fishing line section and the first end having a projection thereon configured for coaxial insertion into the first opening of the female connector, the projection having a radial extent greater than the radial extent of the interior feature of the female connector;

wherein at least one of the connectors is resilient so that the projection compresses or the interior feature expands to allow passage of the projection axially past the interior feature.

16. **(Canceled)** ~~An apparatus comprising a card having a plurality of fishing line connectors removably disposed thereon, each connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal~~

~~axis, and each connector being symmetric about the axis and having an axial bore extending from the first end to the second end thereof.~~

17. **(Canceled)** ~~The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:~~

~~a slot provided on the card.~~

18. **(Currently Amended)** A method for linear connection of fishing lines comprising:

providing a female connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, ~~the connector being symmetric about the axis,~~ the first end connected to a first fishing line section and the second end having a first opening therein, the connector having an interior feature with a radial extent, in which the step of providing a first fishing line section connected to a female connector includes passing an end of the first fishing line through an axial bore in the female connector and knotting the end of the first fishing line;

providing a male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, ~~the connector being symmetric about the axis,~~ the second end connected to a second fishing line section and the first end having a projection thereon configured for coaxial insertion into the first opening of the female connector, the projection having a radial extent greater than the radial extent of the female connector;

inserting the male connector into the first opening of the female connector; and

moving the radial extent of the projection of the male connector axially past the interior feature of the female connector.

19. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The~~ A method ~~of claim 18~~ for linear connection of fishing lines comprising:

providing a female connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the first end connected to a first fishing line section and the second end having a first opening therein, the connector having an interior feature with a radial extent, in which the step of providing a first fishing line section connected to a female connector includes passing an end of the first fishing line through an axial bore in the female connector and knotting the end of the first fishing line;

providing a male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the second end connected to a second fishing line section and the first end having a projection thereon configured for coaxial insertion into the first opening of the female connector, the projection having a radial extent greater than the radial extent of the female connector;

inserting the male connector into the first opening of the female connector; and

moving the radial extent of the projection of the male connector axially past the interior feature of the female connector.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 19 further comprising:

providing a plurality of the female connectors on a card; and

separating one of the female connectors from the card after knotting the end of the first fishing line.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 20 further comprising:

inserting an end of the male connector into a slot disposed on the card to thereby hold the male connector prior to inserting the male connector into the female connector.

22. **(Original)** The method of claim 19 further comprising:

providing a float having an axial bore; and

passing the end of the first fishing line through the bore of the float prior to passing the end of the first fishing line through the bore of the female connector.

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 18 in which the step of providing a second fishing line section connected to a male connector includes passing an end of the second fishing line through an axial bore in the male connector and knotting the end of the second fishing line.

24. **(Original)** A method for replacing a fishing line section comprising:

providing a first fishing line section connected to a female connector;

providing a second fishing line section connected to a male connector, the male connector being connected to the female connector;

cutting the first fishing line and discarding the female connector with a severed portion of the first fishing line, the male connector, and the second fishing line section;

passing a cut end of the first fishing line through an axial bore in a second female connector and knotting the end of the first fishing line, the second female connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the

second end having a first opening therein, the connector having an interior feature with a radial extent;

providing a second male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the second end connected to a third fishing line section and the first end having a projection thereon configured for coaxial insertion into the first opening of the second female connector, the projection having a radial extent greater than the radial extent of the interior feature of the second female connector;

inserting the second male connector into the first opening of the second female connector; and

moving the radial extent of the projection of the second male connector axially past the interior feature of the second female connector.